



Tips on Responding to a Tornado

➤ Before a Tornado

- Listen to the latest weather news via NOAA weather radio or local radio or television newscasts. Listen to the instructions/information from the Code Red messages.
- Be alert to changing weather conditions. Look for approaching storms.
- Look for the following danger signs:
 - Dark, often greenish sky
 - Large Hail
 - A large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
 - Loud roar, similar to a freight train.
 - If you see approaching storms or any danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

➤ During a Tornado

If you are in:	Then:
A structure (e.g. residence, small building, school, nursing home, hospital, factory,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to a pre-designated area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level. If there is no basement, go to the center of a small interior room on the lowest level (closet, interior hallway) away from corners,

shopping center, high-rise building)	<p>windows, doors, and outside walls. Put as many walls as possible between you and the outside. Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In a high-rise building, go to a small interior room or hallway on the lowest floor possible.• Put on sturdy shoes.• Do not open windows.
A manufactured home or office	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get out immediately and go to a pre-identified location such as the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter. Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.
The outside with no shelter	<p>If you are not in a sturdy building, there is no single research-based recommendation for what last-resort action to take because many factors can affect your decision. Possible actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immediately get into a vehicle, buckle your seat belt and try to drive to the closest sturdy shelter. If your vehicle is hit by flying debris while you are driving, pull over and park.• Take cover in a stationary vehicle. Put the seat belt on and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.

- Lie in an area noticeably lower than the level of the roadway and cover your head with your arms and a blanket, coat or other cushion if possible.

In all situations:

- Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.
- Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a car or truck. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.
- Watch out for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.

➤ **After a Tornado**

- Listen to local officials for updates and instructions.
- Check-in with family and friends by texting or using social media.
- Watch out for debris and downed power lines.
- If you are trapped, do not move about or kick up dust. Tap on a pipe or wall or use a whistle, if you have one, so that rescuers can locate you.
- Stay out of damaged buildings and homes until local authorities indicate it is safe.
- Photograph the damage to your property in order to assist in filing an insurance claim.
- Do what you can to prevent further damage to your property, (e.g., putting a tarp on a damaged roof), as

insurance may not cover additional damage that occurs after the storm.

- If your home is without power, use flashlights or battery-powered lanterns rather than candles to prevent accidental fires.